Mr. C. Kumara Das: The Varkala tunnel is a sort of bottle-neck on account of which we are not able to take big-sized valloms or fast boats which travel from Quilon to Trivandrum. That is one of the chief impediments in the improvement of trade and transports. Therefore, it is necessary that the tunnel should be widened or some other means devised to expedite transport.

President: I think honourable members are entitled to get some more information on this matter. The main drawback to the improvement of commerce through the backwaters of Travancore has been the Varkala tunnel. That tunnel was originally intended for the valloms of ordinary size and being very small, if 20 valloms came on one side and 20 others on the other side, there was a stoppage of all traffic for 3 to 5 hours before those valloms could be side tracked and taken to the middle of the stream and then taken on so that there may not be any congestion. The result of it was that the time taken by valloms going from Trivandrum to Ernakulam was unconscionably long and so it has been considered necessary to try and open up that tunnel or have a subsidiary one or devise some other method by which this difficulty may be overcome.

Road connecting Ranny with Mundakayam.

30 * **Mr. K. S. Joseph:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the length of the road connecting Ranny with Mundakayam *via* Cheruvally Estate;

(*b*) whether through traffic between the two places becomes almost impossible during rainy reasons for want of a proper bridge at "Peroothodu"?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: (*a*) 20 miles.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: Do Government propose to improve the state of affairs?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: They have already taken up the question. The bridge at Peroothodu has already been completed and only the approaches have yet to be completed.

Failure of Electric connection.

31 * **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many complaints have been received in 1120 regarding sudden failure of electric light connection; and

(*b*) if such complaints have been received, the source of the complaints?

Mr. P. Joseph John (*Electric Engineer to Government*):

(*a*) No complaints were received.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of answer to part (*a*).

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly